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HEALTH
11 SEP 1968
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Borough of Tenby

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

# BOROUGH OF TENBY.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1968.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Tenby

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon matters affecting Public Health in the Borough during the year 1968. As this will be my last annual report, I feel it will be of interest to members to compare this with my first full report in 1956.

### Housing.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of council houses and private houses since 1956, so that the number of dwellings overcrowded is now almost nil and, in addition, a number of the older houses have been modernised.

### Prevention of Infectious Diseases.

In the autumn of 1955, vaccination against tuberculosis was commenced in the schools and clinics and since that time, vaccination against poliomyelitis and measles has been introduced, and improvements have also been made in the vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

### Caravanning and Camping.

There has been a sharp increase in the amount of holiday caravanning and camping in the town and adjoining districts. Fortunately, on the whole the sites are well run, but much vigilance is required, particularly to maintain the required standard and prevent overcrowding.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and its Officers for their continued courtesy and co-operation and to include in this my thanks to my clerk for all her help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Phyllis M Bowen

PHYLLIS M. BOWEN, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.,

The Clinic,
TENBY.
Tel: Tenby 2991/2.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate) .....

1968..... 4,540

| | Borough of Tenby 1968 | Borough of Tenby 1967 | County of Pembroke | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | 72 | 69 | | |
| Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.) | 15.9 | 15.2 | 17.3 | 16.9 |
| Illegitimate Live Births | 5 | 6 | | |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births | 7 | 8.7 | | |
| Still Births | 1 | 4 | | |
| Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still births) | 14 | 55 | 12.0 | 14.3 |
| Total Live & Still Births | 73 | 73 | | |
| Infant Deaths | 1 | 2 | | |
| Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) | | | | |
| - total | 14 | 29 | 16.0 | 18.0 |
| - legitimate | 14 | 29 | | |
| - illegitimate | Nil | Nil | | |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4wks)(per 1,000 Live Births) | Nil | 29 | 10.3 | 12.3 |
| Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk) (per 1,000 Live Births) | Nil | 29 | 8.6 | 10.5 |

| | Borough of Tenby 1968 | Borough of Tenby 1967 | County of Pembroke | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peri-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk & Still Births combined)(per 1,000 Live & Still Births) | 14 | 82 | 21 | 25 |
| Maternal Deaths | Nil | Nil | | |
| Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births) | Nil | Nil | 0.56 | 0.24 |
| Deaths | 59 | 75 | | |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.) | 13.0 | 16.6 | 12.1 | 11.9 |

INFANT MORTALITY.

One male infant died at the age of 5 weeks, from interstitial pneumonia, during the year.

DEATHS (General).

The general death rate this year remains higher than the county and the national rates, but is slightly lower than last year. 12 of the total deaths were due to malignant disease, 4 of which were due to cancer of the lung; it is not known whether these four males patients were cigarette smokers or not. Heart disease accounted for 18 deaths.

Approximately 25% of the total 59 deaths in the Borough occurred in persons aged between 70 and 80 years and approximately 30% in persons aged over 80 years.

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| Causes of Death. | Male. | Female. |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL (All causes) | 33 | 26 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 4 | - |
| Leukaemia | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant neoplasms, etc., | 4 | 1 |
| Benign and unsuspected neoplasms | 1 | - |
| Hypertensive disease | 3 | - |
| Ischaemic heart disease | 8 | 5 |
| Other forms of heart disease | 2 | 3 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 3 | 4 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema | 1 | 2 |
| Asthma | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | - | 2 |
| Peptic ulcer | - | |
| Cirrhosis of liver | 1 | - |
| Other diseases of digestive system | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of genito-urinary system | - | 1 |
| Symptoms and ill-defined conditions | - | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | - |
| All other external causes | 1 | - |

TUBERCULOSIS.

I am pleased to report, once again, that no deaths occurred in the Borough from Tuberculosis during the year, and no new cases of the disease were notified.

Prevention of Tuberculosis:
B.C.G.Vaccination: Vaccination of schoolchildren (13 years and over) and contacts continued during the year, at school sessions in the autumn and at Clinics when necessary. Dr. D.Llewelyn Davies, the Chest Physician, also vaccinates contacts at the Chest Clinic.

During 1968, 739 schoolchildren in the county were skin tested and 694 of these required vaccination; 61 contacts also were vaccinated.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Owing to the steady decline in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis found and the better facilities for chest X-ray available to general practitioners, the Mobile Circuit Units discontinued their frequent short visits to West Wales as from January 1968. In future, two mobile units based at Cardiff, will examine industrial groups and general population in the areas previously on circuit, once yearly in the autumn. Durign October 1968, a mobile unit visited Pembroke, Pembroke Dock and Saundersfoot.

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

When the new Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968, came into force on 1st October 1968, certain infectious diseases ceased to be notifiable and a few others were added to the list to be notified.

During the year, the only cases notified in the Borough were 16 cases of Measles.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services: Vaccination against smallpox, poliomyelitis and measles and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus was carried out at the Clinic and at School sessions during the year. Measles vaccination was only available to children between the ages of 4 and 7 years, in the first instance, but by the end of the year, it was possible to offer vaccination to all under 15 years of age, as supplies of vaccine improved.

As separate district figures are not available, the following details relate to all the children under 15 years in the county of Pembroke, who were vaccinated and immunised during the year:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Primary Diphtheria immunisations: | 1194; | Booster doses: | 1702 |
| Whooping Cough immunisations: | 1084. | - | |
| Primary Tetanus immunisations: | 1370; | Booster doses: | 1779 |
| Primary Smallpox vaccinations: | 634; | Re-vaccs: | 49 |
| Primary Polio. vaccinations: | 1271; | Booster doses: | 1172 |
| Measles vaccinations: | 2587. | - | |
| B.C.G.Vaccinations: | 694. | - | |

Ambulance Service.

The County Council is responsible for the running of this service, with ten ambulances based at various points in the county - two at Tenby.

Tenby No. 1 Ambulance conveyed a total of 1,775 sitting cases and 292 stretcher cases during the year, travelling 24,467 miles in all - an average of 11.8 miles per patient.

Tenby No. 2 Ambulance travelled a total of 22,777 miles conveying 1,138 sitting patients and 385 stretcher patients, the average mileage per patient being 14.9.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47: Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Section, during 1968.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT.

1968

D. H. W. GRIFFITHS.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1968.

### HOUSING.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts). | ... | 101 |
| Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous of injurous to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | ... | 2 |
| Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | ... | 10 |
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority. | ... | 10 |

### HOUSING ACTS.

#### Housing Act 1957.

During the year two three-bedroomed terraced type houses have been made subject to Closing Orders in Lieu of Demolition Orders within the terms of the above Legislation.

One of the said houses is under re-construction to bring it up to modern day standard.

#### House Purchase and Housing Acts 1959/61/64.

#### Improvement Grants.

The total number of Grants approved by Council during the year were twelve. An increase of five over and above the last year's figures. Again, as last year I would report that I would think that this number could be increased and perhaps with the advent of new Legislation increasing the Grant Payment we may during 1969 see a rise in the Grant Applications coming before Council.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Grants Approved | ... | 8 |
| Standard Grants Approved | ... | 4 |

## COUNCIL HOUSE ALLOCATION.

During the year the Leach Way Housing Estate has become available for letting, providing the Council with an additional 24 units of three-bedroomed accommodation. The allocation of these houses provided us with an opportunity to lessen our Housing Waiting List to some degree. However, I have to report that the problem of Housing in the Borough is still substantial.

I feel that with construction of old-age-pensioner type units we may be in a position to encourage old-age-pensioner tenants out of Council accommodation which is too large for their domestic needs to these smaller units, hence allowing us houses to be let for young growing families.

Council are now considering the development of Tudor Way which will provide 18 three-bedroomed houses and 2 four-bedroomed type dwellings. Some of this accommodation will be taken by key workers of a Printing Factory if constructed.

The question of adjustments to Council House Rents must be faced in the near future in order that the burden of the Housing Revenue Account can be more equably shared.

Allocations made:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of houses allocated 3-bedroomed | ... | 41 |
| Number of flats allocated 2-bedroomed | ... | 18 |
| Number of old-age-pensioner bungalows allocated | ... | 3 |

## COUNCIL HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Table showing Council House Accommodation.

| LOCATION. | No. | 4 Beds. | 3 Beds. | 2 Beds. | 1 Beds. | 2 Bed Flats. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newell Hill. | 56 | - | 44 | - | - | 12 |
| Maudlins. | 35 | - | 35 | - | - | - |
| The Glebe. | 89 | - | 89 | - | - | - |
| Knowling Mead. | 106 | 1 | 68 | 9 | 4 | 24 |
| Augustus Place. | 22 | - | - | - | 22 | - |
| Churchill Close. | 24 | - | - | - | - | 24 |
| Heywood Court. | 71 | - | - | - | 23 | 48 |
| Jones Terrace. | 8 | - | - | - | 8 | - |
| Leach Way. | 24 | - | 24 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 435 | 1 | 260 | 9 | 57 | 108 |

Council will note that we have increased our stock of houses by 24 three-bedroomed typed dwellings at the Leach Way Estate.

FOOD AND DRUG ACT 1955.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1961.

It was found necessary during the summer holiday period to severely reprimand certain cafes in the town for maintaining poor standard of food hygiene.

The vigilence of constant inspections into businesses associated with the catering industry is most essential in this holiday resort of Tenby. I would appeal to the Hotels and Restaurants Association to support me in my propaganda to bring about a town that is proud to serve good food prepared in hygienic conditions.

Five complaints were recieved regarding unsound food, in each instant it involved mould development and warnings were issued to be more diligent in the handling of wrapped food products.

CONDEMNATION OF FOOD.

| Class of Food. | Weight. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cwts. | Qtrs. | Lbs. | Ozs. |
| Tinned meat. | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Fresh meat. | - | 4 | - | - |
| Tinned fruit. | - | - | - | - |
| " vegetables. | - | - | - | - |
| " fish. | - | - | - | - |
| Fresh vegetables. | - | - | - | - |
| Miscellaneous foods. | - | - | - | - |
| | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

| Premises. | No. on Register. | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 7 | 7 | - | - |
| 2. Factories not included (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. | 35 | 40 | - | - |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises). | 4 | 5 | - | - |
| | 46 | 52 | 0 | 0 |

## THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACTS 1963.

No accidents within the terms of Section 48 were reported to me during this year. The works involved in the inspection of premises falling within the scope of the above Act and its Regulations is done inconjunction with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

| No. of premises registered during 1968. | | Total. |
|---|---|---|
| Offices ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil. | 29 |
| Retail Shops ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 75 |
| Wholesale Shops ... ... ... ... | Nil. | 3 |
| Catering Establishments .. ... ... | Nil. | 25 |
| Fuel Storage Depots.. ... ... ... | Nil. | Nil. |
| | 2 | 130 |

### Analysis of Persons Employed.

| | |
|---|---|
| Offices ... ... ... ... ... ... | 88 |
| Retail Shops ... ... ... ... ... | 350 |
| Wholesale Shosp ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Catering Establishments .. ... ... | 250 |
| Canteens... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| | 699 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Males... ... ... | 200 |
| Females. ... ... | 499 |

## REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse disposal service again proved a sucess during the year. The introduction of a Trade Refuse Service Charge has aided us in developing a more hygienic method of refuse disposal. The fly menace which was attributed to the refuse tip was totally controlled by the practice of earth covering of deposited crude refuse.

I would advise Council that the two existing refuse lorries are in need of renewal. It is my considered advice that a refuse vehicle of greater capacity should be purchased to replace the existing two lorries. This, to my mind, would serve the town more economically and efficiently in the coming busy summer seasons, whilst having the capacity and the design to, if the need should arise, convey our refuse greater distances.

I take this opportunity in praising my Refuse Disposal Service Team for a job well done.

RODENT CONTROL.

The number of rodent infestations which occurred during the year was slightly higher than we experienced during 1967. I am happy to say that the whole position is one that appears to be much lower than could be expected in a town of our size and population. However, I have reason to add that many private businesses do have contracts with rodent eradication firms outside the town to destroy this type of vermine.

The sewers were treated during the year and sucess was achieved to some degree.

Rodent numbers existing on our refuse tips are controlled by the use of Warfarin bait at monthly intervals.

We experience no evidence of immunity in the rodent population against the rat poison Warfarin during the year and it is my intention to continue with this poison in future.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rat Infestations ... ... ... ... | 170 |
| Mouse Infestations ... ... ... | 53 |
| | 223 |

CARAVAN SITE AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

The summer season illustrated to all, that the caravan type holiday is on the increase. We saw large numbers of caravans sited on land adjacent to the highway and in fact the occupiers seemed to think that this was their right, as was shown in the National Press by way of photographs.

The Licenced sites in Tenby were full to capacity and it was necessary in certain instances to send warning letters bringing to the attention of the operator the overcrowding offence within the terms of the Site Licences.

It is hoped that with the County Council proposals to bring about Tourist Caravan Sites within the County, that the approach roads to Tenby will in future not be marred by caravans sited on the associated grass verges.

The Windmills Caravan Site Licenced number was increased to fifteen and a new modern toilet block is to be constructed to facilitate the added holiday makers.

An Appeal lodged by Trevaynne Farm Caravan Site against the decision of the Pembrokeshire Planning Authority to station 20 caravans on land within the Borough, was rejected by the Minister.

Five Licenced Caravan Sites exist in the Borough Area:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kiln Park and Quarry Site ... ... ... ... | 600 Caravans. |
| 2. | Salterns ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 58 " |
| 3. | Zion Gardens ... ... ... ... ... ... | 28 " |
| 4. | Meadow Farm ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 " |
| 5. | Windmills ... ... ... ... ... ... | 15 " |

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply provided by the Pembrokeshire Water Board was augmented during the summer months by raw water taken from the Ritec river. The Board has give assurances that the water is adequately treated and chlorinated to eliminate all organic impurities. However, I would stress that the water from the Ritec surface water supply may be potentially dangerous due to extraneous chemical elements entering perhaps from the hinterland of the St. Florence Valley and our refuse tip. It is imperitive that the Water Boards' attention is drawn to this fact and advised that the chemical sampling of this river source of raw water is vital in producing a wholesome domestic supply of water for the people of Tenby.

The absence of a residual chlorine in the chemical analysis of the domestic water supply has been brought to the Pembrokeshire Water Boards' attention. Without an adequate concentration of residual chlorine there is no safeguard against possible entrance of alimentary organisms from defective sewerage.

It appears that it is the Boards' policy to satisfy themselves that water leaving the service reservoirs is wholesome and palatable and that subsequent contamination due to defective service pipes is perhaps the responsibility of the Public Health Authority. This is not strictly accurate as water service piping is either under the control of Pembrokeshire Water Board or the individual house owners. However, it is our responsibility to safeguard Public Health and the duty of Water Board to provide and maintain an adequate wholesome water supply at all times.

CHEMICAL SAMPLES: 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES: 25